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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

Revised estimates under sections 3 and 8

Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in response to section II, paragraph 19, of General Assembly resolution 48/228 (A) of 23 December 1993, which requested the Secretary-General to consider the creation of a new budget section relating to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s with recommendations for additional resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed forty-eighth session. It deals with the activities emanating from the intergovernmental process on the New Agenda and proposes additional resources in the amount of $428,500 required for the further implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly, to be met from within the overall 1994-1995 appropriation through redeployment from programme 8, Elimination of apartheid, of section 3C, Department of Political Affairs II.

2. By its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly, acting upon the recommendation of the Committee for Programme Coordination (CPC) at its thirtieth session, held in 1990, established a separate programme in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 - programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development. By the same resolution, the Assembly designated the programme as one of the broad sectoral priorities of the medium-term plan. By its resolution 46/185 B of 20 December 1991 on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, the Assembly, acting upon the recommendation of (CPC) at its thirty-first session, approved the proposal to establish a separate, identifiable and visible unit for Africa within the former Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation. The Assembly also approved the proposal that the implementation of a number of specific activities under the programme be assigned to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Department of Public Information. Initially, the

Office of the Director-General provided overall coordination and leadership. ECA exercised team leadership and responsibility for coordination and cooperation at the regional level in the implementation of the programme. The Department of Public Information was responsible for a special programme for highlighting African economic concerns.

3. Following the adoption in December 1991 of the New Agenda, contained in annex II to General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, programme 45 was revised to integrate fully all elements of the New Agenda. The broad priority of the programme in the context of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised was further reaffirmed by the Assembly in its resolution 48/214 of 23 December 1993.

4. Following the restructuring of the Secretariat in the course of the biennium 1992-1993, the institutional structure for the programme has been modified and strengthened. The Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, headed by a secretariat official at the D-2 level, has been established within the Secretariat. Currently, the Office is part of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The General Assembly in the context of its approval of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, has approved the activities and resources for the programme in the amount of $3,102,400 under section 8 of the budget, including the additional activities and resources in the context of the implementation of resolution 48/214 of 23 December 1993. The activities and resources under the programme are detailed in documents A/48/6 (Section 8) and A/C.5/48/64. The responsibilities entrusted to ECA and to the Department of Public Information have remained unchanged and are also financed from the $3,102,400 appropriated under section 8.

5. The present arrangements for programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, ensure a distinct identification of the activities and resources relating to the New Agenda in the United Nations programme budget and of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries within the Secretariat. At the same time, the arrangements provide, through the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, effective high-level leadership and coordination of the activities with various organizational units of the Secretariat concerned, as well as with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations system, on implementation of the programmed activities. The present arrangements also provide for administrative flexibility in the day-to-day implementation of the programme, making it possible for the programme to draw upon and benefit from the resources available within section 8 as a whole. If the resources for programme 45 were to be included in a separate section of the programme budget, such flexibility would no longer exist as the Secretary-General does not have the authority to redeploy funds between sections of the programme budget. The existing arrangements, therefore, would appear to be the most effective, and it would seem desirable to maintain them. The issue should be looked at again at a later stage in the light of the review of the implementation of programme 45 by CPC, which will undertake an in-depth evaluation of the programme in 1996.

6. The following activities and resources are proposed, taking into account section II of General Assembly resolution 48/228 (A), in addition to those already approved for programme 45:

(a) The organization, in 1995, of five ad hoc expert groups on the promotion of the priorities of the New Agenda. Themes to be discussed include capacity-building, development of the private sector, investment promotion, trade, diversification of economies, commodities and marketing of commodities. The venues of the meetings will be Abidjan, Harare, Nairobi, Tunis and Yaoundé. Each meeting would be attended by 20 participants. The related costs, including those for travel of staff, would amount to $160,000. Preparation of discussion papers on the various themes on the agendas of the meetings would require consultancy services estimated at $34,000;

(b) Within its outreach and coordinating mandate, the Office of the Special Coordinator will prepare a report on the causes and consequences of conflict on socio-economic development in Africa. The overall theme will cover conflict prevention, management and resolution, focusing on conflict prevention from economic perspectives. An amount of $35,000 will be required for consultancy services and for external production of the report;

(c) An Asia-Africa seminar would be organized in 1994 to enhance South-South cooperation as follow-up to the implementation of the Declaration adopted by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and the New Agenda; a workshop would also be held in 1995 jointly with ECA and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the practical means to apply the principles of the Tokyo Declaration in national development policies and programmes. The preparation of the Asia-Africa seminar would require consultancy services estimated at $17,500 for the preparation of discussion papers on the themes of human resource and institutional development, and development finance, and $15,000 for the travel of staff. The preparation and holding of the workshop on the practical means to apply the principles of the Tokyo Declaration would require consultancy services estimated at $17,500 and travel of two staff to attend the meeting ($7,500);

(d) An amount of $30,000 was provided for a study to improve further financial intermediation systems and practices in African countries, which was requested in Assembly resolution 48/214. The scope of this study would be expanded to include three case studies of countries with advanced, medium and underdeveloped financial intermediation systems. This would require additional consultancy services in the amount of $75,000;

(e) In the context of the activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development, it is estimated, in the light of experience, that ECA would require an additional six work-months of general temporary assistance at the P-4 level to facilitate data gathering, analysis and reporting. The related costs would amount to $67,000.

7. The resource requirements estimated in paragraph 6 above are summarized as follows:

		Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	ECA	Total
		(United States dollars)		
(a)	General temporary assistance	-	67 000	67 000
(b)	Consultants	169 000	-	169 000
(c)	Ad hoc expert groups	126 000	-	126 000
(d)	Travel of staff	53 500	3 000	56 500
(e)	Contractual services	10 000	-	10 000
	Total	358 500	70 000	428 500

8. The total additional requirements in relation to the New Agenda are estimated at $428,500. It would be the intention of the Secretary-General to finance these additional requirements from within the overall 1994-1995 appropriation through redeployment of an equivalent amount of resources from programme 8 Elimination of apartheid, of section 3, Political affairs.

9. Given the developments in South Africa, the funds appropriated under the programme "Elimination of apartheid" would not be utilized in full for the purpose originally intended. It is proposed, therefore, to redeploy a portion in the amount of $428,500 of the resources currently appropriated for the programme "Elimination of apartheid" from section 3, Political affairs, to section 8, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, to finance the additional requirements under the programme "Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development". A report on the disposition of the resources currently appropriated in the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for activities against apartheid would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

10. In summary, should the General Assembly approve the proposals of the Secretary-General contained in the present report, a transfer of appropriations between sections would be required as follows:

(United States dollars)

Section 3	(428 500)
Section 8	428 500
Total	-

This would be reflected in the revised appropriations to be adopted by the Assembly at the end of its forty-ninth session.